

NEWS

Moment of silence set to honor country’s fallen heroes

President hopes Americans will remember what Memorial Day truly represents

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In 1868, Memorial Day was officially proclaimed a day of remembrance in honor of those men and women who had lost their lives in defense of their country. The White House Commission on Remembrance is encouraging Americans to pause for a moment of reflection this Memorial Day, honoring those who have died in service to the United States.

The National Moment of Remembrance will take place Monday at 3 p.m. and last one minute.

All Americans, wherever they are, are encouraged to take that moment and reflect with a moment of silence.

Memorial Day began in honor of those who had fallen in the Civil War, but after World War I, the holiday was changed to honor those who had fallen in any war.

Some feel the day’s meaning has been forgotten, and the importance has been lost through the act of family gath-



Remembering the Fallen

Photo Illustration by Cpl. Thomas Perry

erings, barbeques and a day off of work.

“I think the emphasis has definitely been lost,” said Lt. Jennifer Howells, clinic manager for the Naval Hospital Beaufort Pediatrics Clinic.

That is why the White House Commission has enacted a

moment of remembrance for all of America to take a minute of their time and pay homage.

“I am all for it,” said Sgt. Clayton Smith, primary marksmanship instructor. “It is a time to reflect on the wars from the past and is especially important to me this year because my old

unit is over there right now.”

The re-emphasis on a day that has been celebrated for more than a century is a welcome patriotic change for some service members.

“With what is going on with current events today, I think it would be wonderful,” said

Howells, who was born on Memorial Day. “After 9-11 and what is going on in Iraq, it would definitely be a good spark for our country.”

The urge to remember the past is ingrained through heritage, tradition and pride within most that serve their coun-

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“This should make the Navy spouses more confident in their ability to handle different situations with deployment, finances and moving,” said Kathy Brown, an on-installation trainer for Lowcountry Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills (L.I.N.K.S.) and a former Compass mentor. “Knowledge is half of the battle. Once you give them the information, they can do with it as they choose.”

Compass has been providing information since 1998, and has been dispersing information in the Beaufort area since 2003. Taking their cues from the Marine Corps L.I.N.K.S. program, the Compass mentors are striving to have a successful independent program.

“The Compass program models itself after the L.I.N.K.S. program,” said Van Dermark, a 12-year Navy spouse who only just became aware of the program since coming to Beaufort.

To promote the support and mentorship the program exempli-

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– Minette Van Dermark, Compass Beaufort team leader



fies, the classes are free and free childcare is provided.

“Some Navy spouses would not take L.I.N.K.S., because it is a Marine Corps program,” said Kim Johnson, a Compass advisor and an on-installation trainer for L.I.N.K.S. “L.I.N.K.S. volunteers got involved because we knew how much time was occupied, and we wanted to be able to foster that as much as we could so people weren’t being left out.”

The establishment of the program here mirrors the growth of the Compass program worldwide.

“There are 12 locations where this program is available,” said Van Dermark. “When you marry

into the military, it is a different world. It is kind of like going overseas; they have different terminologies, customs and traditions, and that is what this class is about.”

“It is kind of like an informational boot camp for spouses,” Van Dermark added.

The program is somewhat new to the Navy and the area. Word of mouth can get more people involved, and having the number of mentors grow will only feed the program and its success, said Brown.

For more information, call Van Dermark at 228-7362 or e-mail CompassBeaufort@nsfamily.org.

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Carter also noted that although they do something every year to focus on the Depot’s EMS team, this was the first year they have set up an event this big.

“We’ve been planning for around two months for this week,” said Doug Peake, PIFD firefighter/paramedic. “We had to wait to see what this year’s theme was going to be, which is ‘Responding for Life,’ and, once we got that, we tailored our program around what we were going to do and where we were going to go. We worked with Beaufort County EMS and did a day out in town as a joint venture to educate the public.”

The PIFD considered the first-year event a success. There was no shortage of curious people who wandered up to the tables to check things out and get free blood pressure readings or complimentary finger print kits for their children.

“It’s really great that they’re here all week,” said Doris Martinez, wife of 1st Lt. Isaiah Martinez. “It’s nice for them to be here for the kids to see them checking people’s blood pressure, doing what they can to help them.”

The paramedics and EMTs aboard Parris Island have been helping people since they began providing Advanced Life Support to the Depot in June 1993. Parris Island was the first base in the Marine Corps to have a paramedic program, starting out with four paramedics. In 1998, two more paramedics were brought on board with the addition of the department’s second ambulance. The program has been the model for many other Marine installations that have started programs of their own.

“Just don’t forget those that are out there, who are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to make sure everyone is safe,” said Peake. “They’re still out there working, ready to make the call, when everybody else is at home asleep.”

Announcing the Brig and Brew ...



Lance Cpl. B.K. Jones

Brigadier Gen. Joseph J. McMenamin, commanding general, MCRD/ERR Parris Island, and Sgt. Maj. Richard L. Arndt, Depot sergeant major, cut the ribbon at the Grand Pre-Opening of the new all-hands club, the Brig and Brew, May 20. The pre-opening allowed Depot personnel a sneak-peak at the club, which features free pool, darts and video games, as well as a sand volleyball pit and a half-court basketball court. The Brig and Brew is set to open for regular hours beginning June 2.